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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Who's afraid of Khaled Hosseini? Find out in Business

B.C. Liberals 'gave away' public land to donor: NDP

POLITICS

Sale decried as a 'pathetic' deal by the Opposition

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The provincial government is being accused of selling British Columbians short in a rushed land deal that left $43 million on the table.

In early 2014, the province sold 14 parcels of land on Burke Mountain in Coquitlam for just under $85 million to developer Wesbild.

The problem, according to the Opposition in a heated exchange during Question Period at the Legislature on Tuesday, is that the land was assessed at $128 million.

One of those parcels, 16 acres valued at $5.6 million, was sold for just $100,000.

In comparison, the average price of a detached home in the Lower Mainland in April 2014 was $783,000, according to the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver.

An incensed NDP accused the Liberal government of rushing through the fire sale to balance its budget and for putting Wesbild chairman Hassan Khosrowshahi, a Liberal donor, ahead of the public interest.

Port Coquitlam NDP MLA Mike Farnworth, seen in this file photo, attacked the government in question period yesterday after the NDP revealed the Liberals had sold 14 parcels of land on Burke Mountain worth $128 million to a developer for $85 million.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's a dereliction of the responsibility the government has to taxpayers," fumed Port Coquitlam NDP MLA Mike Farnworth. "They left a ton of money on the table. They just gave it away. It's pathetic, absolutely pathetic."

Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services, defended the sale.

He said all 14 parcels were sold together and were only assigned individual values "for accounting efficiencies."

> **It's a dereliction of the responsibility the government has to taxpayers.**
> Port Coquitlam NDP MLA Mike Farnworth

He also called the $128 million appraisal, commissioned by government, "overly aggressive."

"In the end, a parcel is worth what the buyer is willing to pay for it," Virk said. "It's always the market that decides. That was the best value at the time in terms of the process."

The NDP said Khosrowshahi donated $228,500 to the Liberals individually and through his companies since the sale, and $934,664 since 2000.

Khosrowshahi's assistant said the businessman was out of town and not available for comment when contacted by Metro.

A spokeswoman for Wesbild did not return Metro's call requesting an interview.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECOVERY

Missing pilots found dead

Search and rescue crews have found the bodies of two pilots in and around the wreckage of a cargo plane that crashed in heavily treed mountains north of Vancouver.

The discovery came a day after the Sweringen SA 226 aircraft disappeared from the radar screen while on its way from Vancouver to Prince George, B.C.

Navy Lt. Paul Trenholm, of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, said one pilot's body was found in the front portion of the aircraft Tuesday morning and the body of the second pilot was discovered nearby a few hours later.

The plane was in pieces.

"Our ground crews first came across portions of the wing, then finally the main body, and the tail was later identified," he said, adding the front part was eventually found.

Cpl. Richard De Jong, of the North Vancouver RCMP, said the bodies of the 33- and 35-year-old pilots have been removed from the wreckage. He did not identify them, but said they lived in the Vancouver area and their families have been notified.

Trenholm said the search and rescue operation involved multiple agencies and groups, including the Royal Canadian Air Force and North Shore Rescue. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Playoffs bring a business boom

ECONOMY

Owners all too happy to serve fair-weather Canucks fans

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Ashley McDonald, Canucks fan and manager of Memphis Blues BBQ Restaurant on Robson Street, is ready for a spike in sales when the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs gets underway on Wednesday. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Stanley Cup fever is sweeping through Vancouver businesses as the Canucks prepare to face off against the Calgary Flames in the first round of the playoffs Wednesday.

While empty seats have become a common sight at Rogers Arena this season, Vancouver Ticket and Tour Service owner Kingsley Bailey said sales are already up ahead of Wednesday's game.

"People want to go to the game," Bailey told Metro. "We are getting a lot of interest."

Bailey said the sudden spike in sales after the Canucks clinched a playoff spot highlights Vancouver's reputation for having "bandwagon fans" that only show support when the team is doing well.

"It really does prove it," he said. "If the team is the winner, they are getting support. That's the key."

Bandwagoners may be annoying for serious fans, but for local restaurants and pubs, the expanding fan base is a welcome sight.

Ian Tostenson, president and CEO of the British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association, said restaurants and bars rake in about $1 million per game, numbers that were confirmed in a 2011 study carried out by the association that looked at the economic impact of hockey on local businesses.

That jump represents about a 10 to 15 per cent increase over regular business, he said.

"Whether it's in town or out of town, it doesn't make that much of a difference," he said. "People still go down to their local watering hole, restaurant or bar to watch the game."

Charles Gauthier, president and CEO of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, agreed hockey is a "significant" contributor to the local economy, bringing business not only to eateries but also hotels and retailers.

"It's a good bridge between getting us to the busy summer season and the busy tourist season," he said. "Cruise ships are already here but it's an additional boost to the bottom line."

George Siu, owner of Memphis Blues BBQ Restaurant, which has three stores in Vancouver, agreed that hockey games have a "huge impact" on business for downtown restaurants.

But for those outside of the Rogers Arena vicinity, he said they see a dip in business.

"It's like a vacuum," he said. "As you get further and further out, for restaurants that don't have screens, it's a bit of a downturn."

To combat the problem, Siu said he turned to promoting his restaurant's takeout service at the Cambie and Broadway location for fans watching the game from home.

> **If the team is the winner, they are getting support. That's the key.**
> Kingsley Bailey, owner of Vancouver Ticket and Tour Service

But the boom in business only lasts as long as the Canucks keep winning, said Tostenson.

According to the British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association's 2011 study, the correlation between hockey and consumer spending is directly linked to the team's success.

"If the Canucks lose a game, then people go home early and that's the end of it," said Tostenson. "But if they win the game, there's more of a sustaining effect."

While fan excitement is already building, Tostenson said he expects it to only reach a fever pitch after Wednesday's game.

After the Canucks failed to make the playoffs last season, he said many fans turned their backs on the team. Although the Canucks now have a shot at the Stanley Cup, he said many fans seem to still be in disbelief.

"I think we're protecting our enthusiasm a little bit because the team is in a re-positioning mode," he said. "But when we realize tomorrow night that we're actually in the playoff situation, I think people are going to wake up and pay attention."

TICKET PRICES

For fans looking to get in on the action, Wednesday's game could be the most affordable playoff game of the season.

Kingsley Bailey, owner of Vancouver Ticket and Tour Service, said most tickets are selling between $125 and $150 for the first two games, with only a few seats fetching prices of up to $600.

"If you want to go to a playoff game this year, the best value is going to be right now because nobody is expecting anything," he said. "That's where you can get the best deal."

On ticket re-sale website StubHub.com, tickets start at $88.83 US, with more than 800 tickets still available. The priciest rink-side ticket is selling for$2,108.25 US on the website.

Although still steep for many fans, the tickets are a steal compared to prices in other cities.

In Winnipeg, tickets for Jets playoff games sold out in minutes Tuesday, with people asking for up to $900 US for a single seat on StubHub.

Meanwhile, in Calgary, a scalper is asking for a whopping $3,000 for a pair of tenth-row seats on Kijiji.com.

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Future fears over spill

ENVIRONMENT

Worries voiced that oil will go up food chain

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The City of Vancouver remains worried about the immediate and long-term repercussions of the English Bay bunker fuel spill, but the most important thing on its to-do list is planning for a larger-scale emergency, city manager Penny Ballem told council on Tuesday.

"This was a small spill, there's no doubt about it," Ballem said as she outlined the aftermath of the estimated 2,700-litre spill from the MV Marathassa last week. In comparison, 2,200 metric tonnes of bunker fuel spilled into the harbour in 1973.

"We were lucky.... We need to be prepared for a much bigger, much harder and much faster response," she said.

Ballem suggested the city meet with officials from the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, Environment Canada and West Coast Marine Response Corporation to discuss what could happen in a larger spill, what equipment would be needed, where to put it and how to mobilize a quick response.

A duck is covered in oil after the bunker fuel spill in English Bay on April 8. The city is worried about the long-term repercussions of the 2,700-litre spill. CONTRIBUTED

Councillors echoed this sentiment, expressing concern and anger about the response time, the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station closure and how a recreational boater was first to notice the spill.

Ballem outlined the initial snafus in communication — the city wasn't alerted to the spill for 12 hours — but said the city subsequently formed strong relationships with the other agencies and has discussed notification protocol.

It may have been a small spill, but it impacted six kilometres of beaches and affected 30 birds. There is no time frame to reopen the beaches to the public.

As a precaution, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has closed all recreational crab and shellfish fishing between Point Grey and Point Atkinson to the west side of the Lions Gate Bridge.

As of Tuesday, coast guard officials said crews had cleaned up 90 per cent of the spill, but the city remains concerned about exactly how much spilled (Transport Canada is calculating this), how much oil is left under the surface and what residents should do if they encounter oil on the beaches.

The city is conducting sampling of the water and sediment around its beaches to monitor environmental changes. It is concerned the oil will impact mussels and plankton and subsequently get into the food chain.

It's also worried if it will be reimbursed for its costs, Ballem said. The ship's owners are responsible to pay for the entire cleanup, but this is expected to involve prosecution, so the city has lawyered up.

IN BRIEF

NDP MPs call on Stephen Harper to reopen Kits coast-guard station

B.C.'s NDP members of Parliament are calling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to immediately reopen the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station in the wake of the toxic bunker fuel spill in English Bay last week.

Lower Mainland residents "aren't buying it" when the Conservatives call the response led by the Canadian Coast Guard "world class," New Westminster–Coquitlam & Port Moody MP Fin Donnelly said at a news conference in front of the defunct, fenced-off station on Tuesday.

Based on statements from the former base commander Fred Moxey, the 12 NDP MPs in the province say they believe the Kits station could have quickly responded to the spill.

The MPs sent a letter Thursday demanding Harper reopen the station along with the Ucluelet Marine Communication and Traffic Service Centre and stop plans to close similar centres in Vancouver and Comox. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Average Vancouver house price soars to $1,361,023 in March

Detached properties have soared in value, rising to an average of **$1,361,023** last month, an increase of **$139,986, or 11.4** per cent higher than **$1,221,037** a year earlier and smashing the previous high of $1,287,213 in January of this year.

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Turf war is behind shootings: RCMP

CRIME

19 incidents in Surrey and Delta since March 9

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

A turf war between rival gangs is to blame for a string of brazen shootings in Surrey and Delta, police say.

There have been 19 shootings in the two communities since March 9 and 11 of those have been linked a dispute between two "low-level drug trafficking" groups, according to Surrey RCMP.

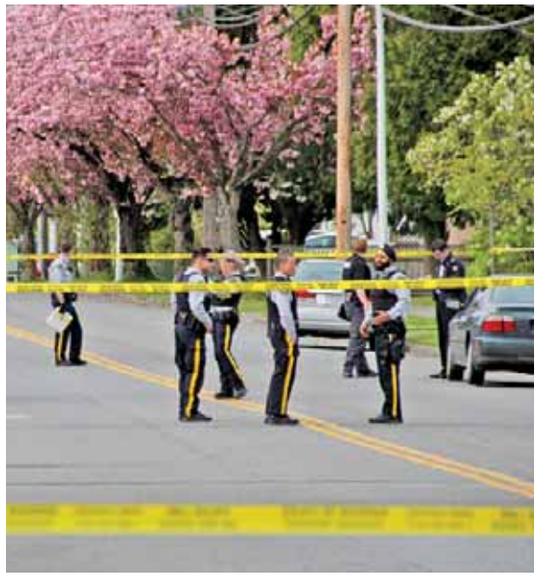
"The two groups are of South Asian and Somalian descent," said Chief Supt. Bill Fordy, officer in charge of Surrey RCMP. "We believe these two groups are competing over turf and have chosen to jeopardize public safety in that process. This type of violence is completely unacceptable."

One only arrest has been made to date in connection to the spree, with police claiming uncooperative victims have stonewalled all investigations.

One victim even allegedly told police that he was shot by bullets that "fell from the sky."

"While both the victims and suspects in these cases are determined to settle their differences outside the law, we are determined to stop the violence," Fordy said at a news conference Tuesday.

To that end, police took the rare step of publicly releasing the names of victims, or intended victims, and appealed to their family, friends and anyone else who may know them to come forward in information on their connectives and activities.



RCMP investigate a shooting Sunday in the 7000 block of 130th Street in Newton. SHANE MACKICHAN/CONTRIBUTED

POLITICS

Burnaby North MLA stands by his record

The Burnaby North MLA facing a potential recall says he will continue serving his constituents despite the petition against him.

Elections BC announced Tuesday it has approved an application for a petition to recall Liberal MLA Richard T. Lee.

The application was made by teacher Loren Letourneau, who has been critical of the government in the past and wrote she "cannot sit idly by" while Lee remains MLA.

She holds Lee — MLA since 2001 — accountable for hospital underfunding and for being "silent" on the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion proposal. Lee denied both charges and claims he is being targeted because he narrowly edged out NDP challenger Pietro Calendine by 668 votes in the 2013 election.

"My perception is they're fighting the last election. The petition is not well-meaning," said Lee.

If registered canvassers are able to collect 16,494 valid signatures in the riding in 60 days, Lee will be forced to vacate his seat and a byelection will be called.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

IN BRIEF

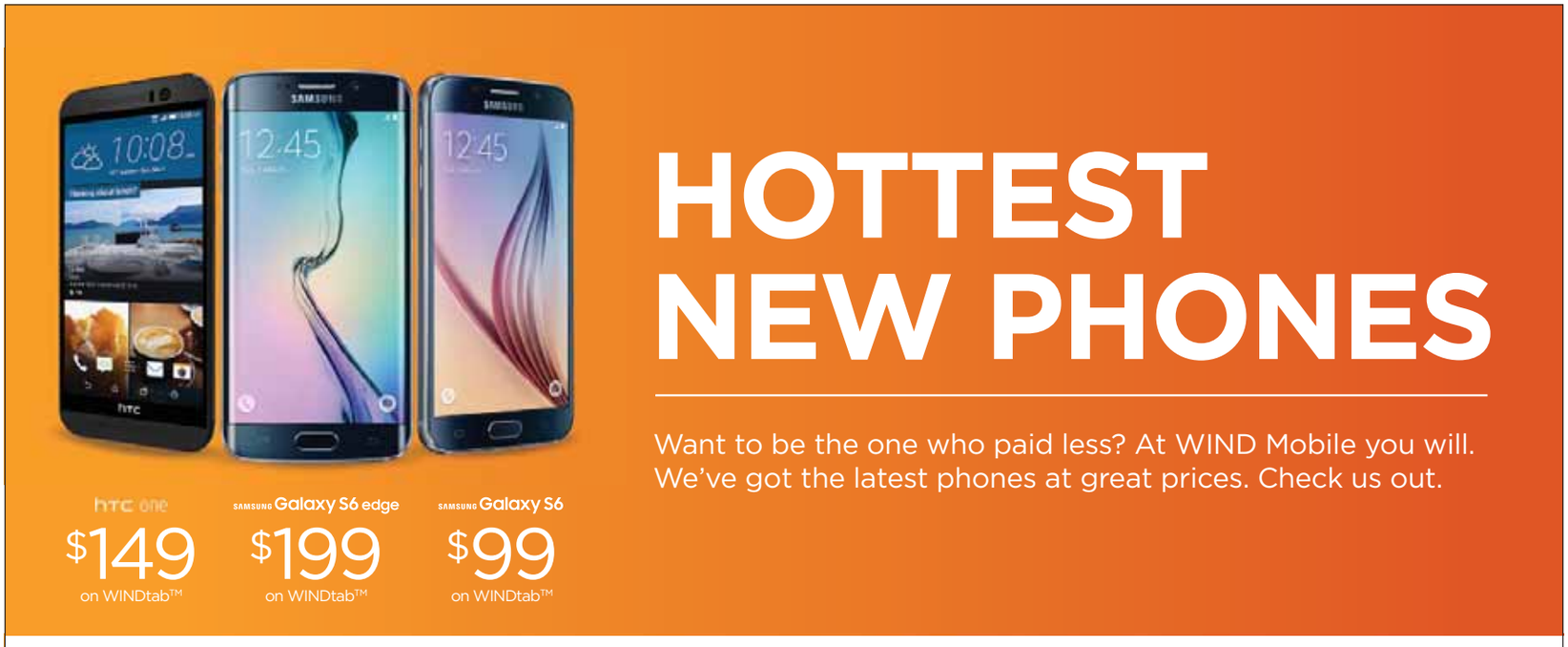
Man allegedly drives away from traffic stop with officer clinging to van

A Port Moody man was arrested after allegedly resisting arrest at a traffic stop and driving away with a police officer clinging to the roof of his van that contained a loaded handgun.

An officer pulled over the van after it sped away from the area. The officer allegedly spotted drugs and asked the driver to exit. When the driver refused, a second officer entered the passenger door to attempt to pull him out, prompting the man to drive away. The officer pulled himself inside, subdued the driver and stopped the van.

Jeremy Jesson, 42, faces eight charges.

METRO



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POLITICS WHEN HOCKEY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COLLIDE
Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, from the left, Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard and Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger are seen at an interprovincial summit on climate change in Quebec City on Tuesday holding sweaters from their province's teams that will participate in the NHL playoffs. The goal of the meeting was to show Canadians how their leaders were uniting to fight the effects of climate change. PHOTO: JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS; TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Coalition? Maybe, but not if Mulcair is NDP leader, Trudeau says
Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau says he would "maybe" be open to the idea of forming a coalition with the New democratic Party if Tom Mulcair was not running the party.

Asked on Tuesday whether having someone other than Mulcair as leader would change the dynamic in terms of a coalition between the two parties, Trudeau replied: "Maybe, but maybe not.

"(Mulcair's) style is anchored in the old way of practising politics. Politics needs to be about rallying."

Mulcair, however, reiterated his openness last month to a possible coalition with the Liberals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student pleads for refugee camp

CONFLICT

Kenyan leaders move to close Dadaab in wake of attacks

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Hassan Mohamed was only two when his family settled into Dadaab refugee camp in northern Kenya, fleeing civil war that was ravaging Somalia.

He left in 2012 and came to Toronto as a student. His parents and five siblings remain in the camp, "living in real terror," Mohamed said, as the UN refugee agency pleads with the Kenyan government to keep it open.

"Closing that camp and sending people back in Somalia is like throwing them into a burning fire," Mohamed said Tuesday amid reports of more violent deaths in his homeland.

"These refugees are no lesser victims of al-Shabab."

Leaders in Kenya have ordered Dadaab be closed and more than 500,000 refugees relocated in the wake of an April 2 attack that killed nearly 150 students at Garissa University College.

Officials suspect members of al-Shabab — a militant Islamist group — are hiding in the refugee camp, the world's largest.

Kenya's vice-president has said the country needs to change "the way America changed after 9/11."

Mohamed hopes to see more security measures instead of drastic action at Dadaab — a place he holds dear.

"That camp raised me and made me who I am today," said the third-year University of Guelph accounting and computer student.

"I don't think closing it down will solve Kenya's security problems."

Closing that camp and sending people back in Somalia is like throwing them into a burning fire.
Hassan Mohamed

TEN PEOPLE KILLED IN SOMALIA AFTER AL-SHABAB ATTACK ON EDUCATION MINISTRY; FLIP TO WORLD FOR COVERAGE

UN REACTS

Consequences to closure
Closing the camp would cause "extreme humanitarian and practical consequences," the UN refugee agency said.

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Hope fades for return of kidnapped Nigerian girls

BOKO HARAM

New president offers no promises

They have been gone a year now, the hundreds of girls abducted by Islamic militants from their school in northeastern Nigeria.

And while the cry to "Bring Back Our Girls" remains a worldwide cause, the new president Tuesday would not repeat his predecessor's failed promise to find them — only that they won't be forgotten.

A solemn march was held to remember the 219 girls seized from their boarding school in Chibok by gunmen from the Boko Haram extremist group. In Nigeria's capital of Abuja, 219 girls paraded in the streets, with each carrying a placard bearing the name of a kidnap victim.

"We believe the girls are still alive," said Dr. Allan Manasseh, the brother of missing 18-year-old Maryamu Wavi, in an interview with The Associated Press.

But it was clear that hope has dwindled a year after the April 14-15 mass abduction.

President-elect Muhammadu Buhari said he must be honest about the prospects of getting the missing girls back to their families.

"We do not know if the Chibok girls can be rescued. Their whereabouts remain unknown," Buhari said in a statement. "

As much as I wish to, I cannot promise that we can find them."

The statement by Buhari, a former military ruler of Nigeria who was elected last month and takes over May 29, is a marked departure from President Goodluck Jonathan.

After Jonathan's administration initially denied there had even been a kidnapping, he made repeated hollow promises that the girls would be rescued.

Campaigners have replaced the slogan of "Bring Back Our Girls — Now and Alive!" with a new one: "Never to be forgotten."

Still, some of the marchers Tuesday held the new leadership accountable.

"We are here to appeal to the government to do better. We want our girls now and alive," said Solamipe Onifade, 16.

A vigil was held after sundown, with people holding candles and singing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Young girls known as Chibok Ambassadors during a demonstration in Abuja, Nigeria, on Tuesday. The girls are carrying placards bearing the names of the children kidnapped from the government secondary school in Chibok a year ago. SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOMALIA

Ten killed in attack on school ministry

Ten people were killed on Tuesday in an assault on the offices of Somalia's education ministry, and seven attackers were also killed, said a government spokesman.

The fatalities include eight civilians and two soldiers, said Ridwan Haji Abdiweli.

Police later secured the Ministry of Higher Education office complex, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein, a senior police officer.

The attackers stormed the education ministry's offices after a suicide bomber detonated his car at the gate of the complex, opening the way for gunmen to enter, said Hussein.

The assault on the walled compound, which also houses other government ministries, is the latest attack by suspected Islamic extremists of al-Shabab, who are maintaining a series of attacks in the capital on government targets and the African Union forces who are supporting the government. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sculpture of a cigarette butt in Paris. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANCE

Smoking, drinking, anorexia on hit list

France's lower house of Parliament has approved a draft law tackling a range of public health problems from smoking and drinking to obesity and anorexia.

The bill passed in the National Assembly on Tuesday with 311 votes in favour and 241 against. The reform now goes to the Senate.

One measure would make it a crime to use anorexic models or encourage anorexia. Any modelling agency or person who pays a model below a certain body mass index would face up to six months in prison and 75,000 euros ($80,000 US) in fines if convicted.

Another measure would force manufacturers to package their cigarettes in plain boxes.

In another part of the bill, people who encourage minors to drink excessively could face a year behind bars and a 15,000 euro ($16,000 US) fine.

The sale to minors of products inciting people to get drunk, such as T-shirts, would be forbidden.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accused 'choked' boy to death: State

MANHATTAN

Closing arguments in 1979 missing child trial

The case of a six-year-old boy who vanished in 1979 marked the end of an innocent era but has led to reforms that have helped save many children from a similar fate, a prosecutor said Tuesday at the trial of the man accused of killing him.

Etan Patz "is larger than his very little, important life," Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon said in closing arguments at the Manhattan murder trial of Pedro Hernandez, a 54-year-old New Jersey man.

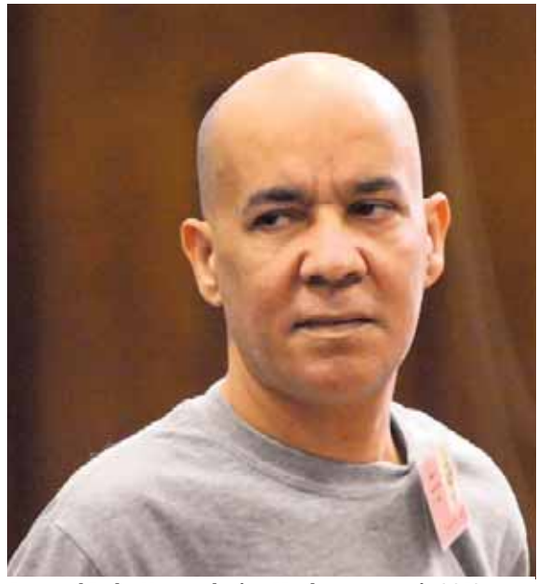
Hernandez confessed in 2012 in a case that has confounded law enforcement for decades. Etan's body was never found, nor was any trace of clothing or his belongings. The defence says the admissions are the fictional ravings of a mentally ill man with a low IQ.

Hernandez, who was a teenage stock clerk, knew there were children in and out of the store, and Etan had been there countless times, the prosecutor said.

Illuzzi-Orbon said Hernandez saw Etan with a dollar and asked him to the basement. She said the motive was sexual, and Etan likely fought back. "The quickest and easiest way to shut him up and shut him up permanently was to choke him to death," she said.

Illuzzi-Orbon said his first confession to a prayer group shortly after the boy disappeared was the most accurate. Prayer circle members testified that Hernandez made tearful admissions during a 1979 retreat that matched some of what he told authorities on video 33 years later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Accused Pedro Hernandez in a Manhattan court in 2012.
LOUIS LANZANO, POOL, FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PUBLISHING

Library group lists controversial books

At least one part of the publishing world has a diverse slate of authors: the books most likely to be pulled from library and school shelves.

The American Library Association on Monday released its annual list of the 10 books receiving the most complaints from parents, educators and others in the local community.

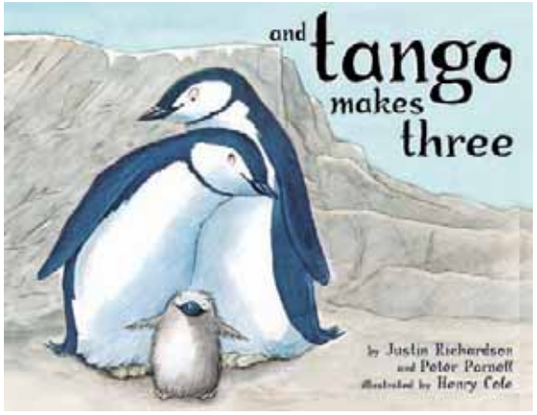
Sherman Alexie's prize-winning autobiographical novel of school life, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, ranked No. 1, followed by Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel Persepolis and the picture book about two male penguins raising a baby penguin, Peter Parnell's and Justin Richardson's And Tango Makes Three.

Several of the authors listed were either non-whites — even though just a small percentage of books released each year are by non-whites — or writers of books with gay, lesbian or transgender themes.

Reasons for books being challenged ranged from "cultural insensitivity" in Alexie's novel, in which the author draws upon his experiences as an American Indian at a virtually all-white high school, to "promotes the homosexual agenda" in And Tango Makes Three.

Common complaints include explicit sex, violence, references to drugs and alcohol and offensive language.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The book And Tango Makes Three was one of the most "challenged" in schools and libraries, says the American Library Association. SIMON & SCHUSTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Toy tester shutting down

The Canadian Toy Testing Council. a volunteer organization that for decades has given parents independent advice on which toys are best for their children, is closing its doors effective the end of June. Under financial pressure for years, the council's board of directors voted last month to cease operations following an exhaustive but vain search for new sponsors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spectrum auction starts

Smaller players in Canada's wireless market will likely gain a little ground on the telecom companies through Ottawa's latest auctioning of spectrum, which began Tuesday, says an industry expert. The airwaves cover spectrum used to provide high-bandwidth functions like streaming video to smartphones but also for home Internet service in rural areas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Life360 co-founder and president Alex Haro, seen at his company headquarters in San Francisco on Tuesday, spent nearly $1.5 million US in legal fees to defend their mobile app from a company they had never heard of. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patent trolls milk millions in the U.S.

FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS

Tech industry upset over laws that favour patent-holders

The same week that Alex Haro and Chris Hulls raised $50 million US for their mobile app, Life360, the business partners got a letter. It said they had three days to pay licensing fees to a company they had never heard of because their app violated its patented technology.

Haro and Hulls traced the company, Advanced Ground Information Systems, to a coastal home in Jupiter, Fla., with a phone number that initially went to an anonymous voicemail. They couldn't find any employees on LinkedIn.

On the other side of that letter was Malcolm "Cap" Beyer Jr., a 76-year-old who had filed patents a decade ago on cellphone mapping. He said his attorney told him that he had a strong case against the startup, even though the general technology had been widely used by other tech companies for years. Beyer insists the mobile app's $50 million US in fundraising had nothing to do with it.

In the end, a jury sided with Life360 on all counts — but not before Haro and Hulls shelled out nearly $1.5 million in legal fees.

U.S. Congress is expected to take up legislation this year that would make it tougher for people like Beyer to claim patent infringement and put them on the hook for legal costs if they lose. The bill has become a top lobbying priority this year for the tech industry, which says it repeatedly fends off frivolous lawsuits because of poorly written software patents and laws that favour patent holders.

But lawmakers have repeatedly stumbled over the issue, which doesn't fall neatly along party lines. America's drugmakers, universities and trial lawyers claim that patents are the lifeblood of American invention and that the current bill goes too far.

The bill aims to toughen requirements when filing patent challenges in court, such as limiting the amount of documentation that can be demanded before a judge makes an initial ruling. The bill also opens the door to a requirement that plaintiffs pay legal bills of the defendants if they lose.

Still opposing the bill, however, are pharmaceutical and biotech companies and universities that say the legislation would make it too tough and expensive for them to protect their patents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More Canadians cutting the cord: Report

More Canadians are choosing to cancel their cable TV and satellite packages, and a new report suggests there's no sign of the migration slowing down. The Convergence Consulting Group says about 95,000 fewer households had a cable TV or satellite subscription at the end of 2014, compared with 2013.

By those estimates, more than 21 per cent of Canadian households or 3.09 million homes did not have a cable TV or satellite TV subscription at the end of last year.

"These are very strong drops in TV," said Brahm Eiley, president of Convergence Consulting, a Toronto-based firm that collects extensive data on the North American cable and phone industries.

This year, Eiley expects the industry will lose another 97,000, as the shift continues.

Several factors are at work in the decline, Eiley suggested. Some younger households never signed up for TV services, while more households are putting their cash toward video-streaming services like Netflix. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUBSCRIBER BASE

Canadians streaming to Netflix, report says

The report estimates Netflix subscribers grew to 3.9 million last year in Canada, an increase from three million in 2013.

The big telecoms have been fighting back, with competing services like Shomi from Rogers and Shaw, and CraveTV from Bell and its partners, including Telus, Bell Aliant and Eastlink.

The study also found more Canadians are becoming comfortable watching content through other Internet platforms, whether it's through the web platforms of TV channels like CTV and CBC or illegal downloads through torrent websites.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transgender therapist Hershel Russell made the female-to-male metamorphosis in his 50s. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transitioning in late 50s an 'amazing' experience

TRANSGENDER ISSUES

Woman spent first half of life hiding behind macho identity

With speculation rampant over former U.S. Olympian Bruce Jenner's apparent feminization and Jeffrey Tambor's portrayal of a septuagenarian father coming out as a woman in TV's Transparent, public awareness of transgender issues has likely never been higher.

But these icons of popular culture have also shone a light on a segment of the transgender community that has remained pretty much in the shadows — those who transition later in life.

For 60-year-old Christina Comeau, finally choosing to fully embrace her female identity two years ago was a choice between life — or death by her own hand.

"Suicide was my constant thought for a very long period of time," admits Comeau, "I just finally got to the point where No. 1, I didn't want to die. And No. 2, the life I was living wasn't worth living and therefore whatever it cost was going to be worth it."

It was a decision that Comeau had wrestled with since the age of two or three, when as a boy named Christopher, he had learned to hide his feminine leanings or risk paying a terrible price.

As a four-year-old pre-schooler in 1950s small-town Ontario, Christopher was cared for in a woman's home while his divorced single mother went to work.

"One day, that women caught me playing with dolls," Comeau recalls, "and she beat me into unconsciousness with her husband's belt."

Comeau decided to hide in plain sight eventually pursued an ultra-macho career — life in the Canadian military and a rise to the high-powered rank of lieutenant-colonel — as well as marriage and five children before age 30.

But over time, the disconnect between biological sex and gender identity was taking a huge psychological toll.

Approaching 40 and retired from the military, Comeau told his wife that he could no longer bear the torment of living a lie (she'd known early on about her spouse's dual nature, but preferred not to talk about it), and screwed up the courage to come out one at a time to his teenagers, who were "amazing" in their acceptance.

Comeau started with his oldest daughter, then 18, stumbling to get out the words: "And she said, 'Are you trying to tell me you're really a woman? Because I've known that since I was five years old.'"

So began 10 years of living a dual life within the family: Each morning, Christopher the man left the house to work as a senior consultant. In the evening, it was more often a female-garbed Christina who went out socializing.

"My two worlds did not overlap other than in my home," says Comeau, whose wife had left after about five years. "She didn't want to be married to "It's amazing. It's everything I've ever wanted in my whole life," she says of living as the woman she was meant to be.

"The price I paid was not in transitioning; the price I paid was in not transitioning.''

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jeffrey Tambor — who portrays Maura, has raised the profile of older transgendered people with this role on TV. GETTY IMAGES

COMING OUT LATER IN LIFE

Risks

Coming out as the gender opposite the one assigned at birth can be fraught with risks. A 2010 Trans Pulse survey in Ontario showed half of transgender people live below the poverty line, making less than $15,000 a year, often because they are unable to secure employment.

Many can't obtain housing and violence is rife: a national survey by Egale Canada found three-quarters of trans youth had experienced verbal harassment, while 37 per cent reported being subjected to some form of physical assault.

"The big risk is suicide," says Toronto therapist Hershel Russell.

Rewards

While transitioning later in life has its challenges, there are also many joys, says Russell, who provides counselling to transgender clients, both young and old, and who himself began his own female-to-male metamorphosis in his 50s.

"These are the common stories I hear: 'I feel so alive in my body. I look in the mirror and I see myself.'"

Still, it takes what Comeau calls "unbelievable raw courage."

"I have jumped out of airplanes, been shot at, stood on the edge of mountains,'' says Comeau. "Yet, I have never been so afraid as the moment before I took the first irreversible steps of my transition.''

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the big question

What's the 'best before' date with human eggs?

The standard storage period for human eggs is 10 years. Viability is not guaranteed but vitrification (flash-freezing, eggs at -196 C) has more success than slow cooling. Spermatozoa are easier to keep, it seems: normal pregnancies have resulted from 12-year-old samples. Even natural fertility isn't foolproof: sex every two to three days over a year only has an 80 per cent pregnancy rate for women under 40.

To binge or to bond, that is the question

SOCIAL DISCOURSE

Omar Mouallem

I stopped watching Orange is the New Black the moment I learned my wife cheated on me … by watching it without me.

We enjoyed the first season over a month, curled up on the couch every few nights. That's accelerated viewing to me, a TV grazer, but glacial to the Netflix Queen I married. She met me in the middle, until I left the country. We both did — it was a vacation. But for her, Europe was no match for Season 2.

What's that Milan Kundera quote? "Two people in love, alone, isolated from the world, that's beautiful. But what would they nourish their intimate talk with?" Not television.

Binge-watching has destroyed the shared viewing experience, turning TV like Marvel's Daredevil, dumped on Netflix at midnight Friday, into an individualistic experience. On one hand, it allows you to catch more clues, nuances, and see the inner workings of a show. On the other hand, it dilutes the social pleasure of television discourse.

Even with social media allowing us to have worldwide simultaneous conversations about new shows, the chatter is trite and tends to be either bland praise or useless status updates of which episode users have reached.

Where there's discussion, it's completely out of sync. Imagine J.R. getting shot in the original Dallas, not on the same night, but staggered over weeks or months. That explains why no Netflix or Amazon original programming has yet had a "Red Wedding" moment that infects your social spheres. Though it's not for a lack of trying.

Had House of Cards been offered in 13 courses instead of buffet style, then Francis Underwood throwing Zoe Barnes in front of the train would surely have made a splash at the water-cooler. But who's to say the person waiting to fill up would be ready for such a spoiler? (P.S.: Spoiler alert.)

Cards, like Orange, is another show I abandoned. With so many condensed highs and lows, I'd become desensitized and, well, bored.

Great television shows build audiences over time, with cliffhangers that linger within you and require a social outlet that builds further word of mouth. We saw that with Breaking Bad and True Detective, and we're seeing it now with Empire, the FOX hip-hop opera that increased its audience with each episode until it wrapped up the season last month.

And perhaps we will see that with Netflix's next show in May, the Canadian thriller Between. It's rolling out over six weeks because of a three-way deal with Shomi and City. Tortured subscribers — and married people — might appreciate it in the long run.

Omar Mouallem (@omar_aok) is based in Edmonton and edits the Yards. Social Discourse appears every other Wednesday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"The micro-living pioneers are the so-called trailer trash"

Small is so chic these days.

There are trend pieces on laneway homes, Nordic cabin trailers, micro condos, and endless feature stories on "innovative" small living spaces that read like some kind of scientific discovery.

Please. Small space living is nothing new, not even in North America. And the original micro-living pioneers are the so-called trailer trash.

"If Bubbles was here I would give him the biggest hug," Cindy MacDonald tells me over the phone from her home in Calgary's Midfield Mobile Home Park.

"Trailer parks need to look out for one another!" the Trailer Park Boys star tweeted earlier this week and asked Mayor Naheed Nenshi to stop the city's plan to evict the park's residents in 2017, due to aging infrastructure.

MacDonald turned to Bubbles as an ironic champion after facing slurs like "trailer trash, whores and druggies," she said, thinking the beloved pop culture epitome of trailer trash might help turn the tide.

MacDonald should never have needed his PR help Mobile homes are perfectly fine homes. They're important sources of affordable housing for seniors and young families, according to a 2007 B.C. study. And they're even on the rise: The 2011 census found movable dwellings (which include mobile homes) are up to 183,510 from 157,560 in 2001.

One new adopter is Isabella Mori, whose custom-built trailer home in Vancouver is so chic it's spawned a newspaper trend story. As if mobile homes weren't a century old.

The trend pieces are "hilarious," agreed Jake Fry, one of the leaders in Vancouver's small-house movement. "(It's) as if someone had stumbled upon an idea not yet utilized, and yet it's probably the most common thing in the world, these type of smaller living environments for families."

We can thank the exorbitant and rising cost of urban housing for adding fuel to the trend. As someone who lives in a 200-square-foot studio apartment, I get the appeal of a pared-down home. Fry even argued the younger generation is motivated to live in smaller spaces by a desire to focus on what they need to be happy, and not what they want, like the Blue Jays' new van-living pitcher Daniel Norris.

Mobile homes aren't a likely option for most cities looking to expand up instead of out.

And if and when MacDonald is evicted, it'll be amid the rise of the micro-condo in Toronto and the freight-container apartments in Vancouver — the higher-end evolution of an old search for housing that we can afford. Trailer-sized living, chic.

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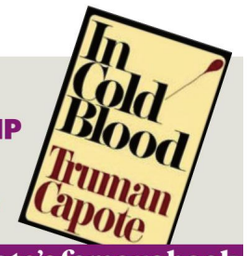
Plans are afoot to launch a TV series based on Capote's famous book



Of celebs and science

TELEVISION

You don't have to be an astrophysicist to get on Tyson's new show

Dean Lisk
Metro | Life

What would Kim Kardashian know about science? Neil deGrasse Tyson says the answer may surprise you.

"I would put her on StarTalk," says the popular scientist about his new National Geographic Channel series.

"What would we talk about? We would look at all the things she does. If she uses a hair straightener, there are chemicals in that hair straightener. If she bronzes her skin, we will talk about the chemicals. I will bring in a chemist to talk about cosmetics."

Having a conversation about science is at the heart of his series, premiering Monday, April 20 at 11 p.m. ET.

During each hour-long episode, Tyson sits down with a celebrity to explore how science and technology influence their lives.

"Maybe I was exaggerating a little bit, but if I could get (Kim Kardashian) on, I would do it," says Tyson.

Still, there is enough star power to tune in, with guests ranging from Star Trek alum George Takei and director Christopher Nolan, to syndicated columnist Dan Savage and Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield.

"He was just as friendly and as smart and as charming as I had hoped and expected. He made a great guest," says Tyson about Hadfield. "I had not known that he also composes music. So on the StarTalk episode he sang for us the lullaby he composed for his kids while he was in space to sing them to sleep."

Tyson describes the process of choosing guests as "very crass and simple."

"It's: 'Are they famous?' We want them as a guest. We created StarTalk to reach people who didn't know they liked science. Or people who knew they did not like science.

"You have to give them some other reason to participate in a science conversation. One way to do that is to comb the elements of pop culture and say, 'Are there singers, actors, directors, performers who have huge followings? Well, let's get them on StarTalk.' And, we will find ways science emanates from their profession — even in ways they might not have been aware of. We might find they have a little bit of geek in them."

Getting people in touch with their inner geek is nothing new for Tyson.

The director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History previously hosted the PBS series NOVA ScienceNow and Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey.

He is also a popular scientific voice on social media, with more than 3.3 million Twitter followers.

"In the sciences, we are not generally rewarded for being sociable. Our reward comes from never leaving the laboratory," he says.

"So maybe people thought I was odd.

"That said, I do think a lot about pop culture. So I am a little bit fluent in some aspects of pop culture and so that helps. Because, if there is someone who doesn't know anything about science, but they know everything about pop culture, I have a way to have a conversation with them."

TYSON TALKS

On Canadian currency

"Congratulations on the five-dollar bill that you guys have," says Tyson, noting the hockey players on the bill were replaced by the Canadarm when plastic currency was introduced. "I use it in all my lectures. Canada decided they didn't need the hockey players on the back of the five dollar bill. That they didn't need to be reminded that they liked hockey up in Canada. So, they could use that currency real estate on the on the back of the five-dollar bill and they could put Chris Hadfield and the Canadarm on it."

On being named to People's sexiest list

"To be clear, that was 15 years ago, and probably 15 kilos ago," says Tyson. "It was 'sexiest astrophysicist alive.' But consider the category. I don't think that is a very competitive category."

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Tatiana Maslany as clones Sarah Manning, left, and Cosima Niehaus.
HANDOUT

The multiplicity of Tatiana Maslany

INTERVIEW

Orphan Black star talks about her big, happy clone family

Lisa Weidenfeld
Metro | New York

It's rare enough for an actor to earn endless critical acclaim for a performance on TV. But there's one star receiving that kind of praise for several performances, all in one show: Tatiana Maslany. She's been doing that for two seasons as a group of clones on Orphan Black, which returns for a third season on Saturday. The show manages to be, at various points, a satire of suburbia, a con artist action show and a horror movie with religious undertones. At the centre of it all is Maslany, anchoring a group of women who are learning to be siblings, but who are all so different from each other that it's easy to forget they're played by one woman.

What would you say is the theme of the new season?
It feels to me like there's something about the idea of the girls being stronger as a team. We see them separate at the beginning because they've all had these huge life changes and are in different worlds entirely because of everything, but just by meeting, they've changed each other and they've discovered a family they now belong to. And I think that's been a huge thing for all of them.

Will they be separated again like they were last season, or will they be together more often this year?
They're splintered again. It's exciting to see them in their own worlds and coming back together. They all have very separate lives, as much as they have come together. Cosima's sick and dealing with her mortality, so that's where her world picks up again, whereas Alison is in a loving relationship and very supported, and yet they have this secret that they're hiding from everyone, which is that they've buried a body in their garage. So there's all these different things that they're contending with that are very separate.

You famously used different types of music to get into each clone character. Are you still doing that?
It changes all the time. It's less precious to those playlists now. It's a bit more fluid. It's more what I'm listening to at that moment. I trust that character to live in my body a little more than I did in the first season and second season. The process of getting them is different.
They also have met each other and there's a lot of crossover in terms of who they are. I think siblings tend to impact each other and kind of create each other, so there's definitely less of a, you are this and I am this.

PLOT LINES ONCE ENEMIES, NOW PARTNERS

Team Alison and Donnie

Though Alison, the iron-willed suburban mom, was often at odds with husband Donnie (Kristian Bruun) in earlier seasons once she learned he was observing her for the sinister Dyad Institute, the two have since united over a shared hatred of the company.

How is it working as a team with Alison and Donnie, as opposed to having them be at odds?
It's great. He's such an awesome actor, Kristian. He's such a great improviser and we have so much fun together, so it's such a joy to get to do a scene together. That dynamic has always been one that has excited me and it's always kind of growing and changing.

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Charlize's wedding surprise

ENGAGEMENT

'Life just kicks you in the ass,' says Sean Penn's fiancée

Ned Ehrbar
In Hollywood

Considering that during her nine-year relationship with Stuart Townsend she was vehemently against walking down the aisle, it's understandable that even Charlize Theron was not expecting she'd be engaged to new beau Sean Penn after just over a year of dating.

She's shocked by the development, I tell you. Or rather, she tells Esquire: "I think that for both of us there was never a moment where we thought that this — what we have today — would ever even be a possibility. Ever, ever, ever," she says.

"I think we're both finding ourselves at this moment in our lives kind of shocked. Both of us. Just when you think you know how things are supposed to go down, life just kicks you in the ass and guess what? You don't have a clue."

That … is a pretty unpleasant way to describe getting engaged, but maybe that's just what life with Penn is like?

Shocked by Charlize Theron and Sean Penn's engagement? Turns out Theron is, too. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

SOCIAL MEDIA

Janelle Monae schools Twitter fashion critics

Singer Janelle Monae has a unique sense of style — one that is totally working for her, mind you — but even the best-dressed among us have to tend with obnoxious naysayers every now and again. Monae found herself on the receiving end of some unsolicited fashion advice, and she turned it into an opportunity for a master class in schooling Twitter trolls.

A "fan" tweeted at her, "Girl, stop being so soulful and sexy. Tired of those dumbass suits. You fine, but you too damn soulful, man."

So how did Monae respond? "Sit down. I'm not for male consumption." Simple, to the point and effective.

STREAMING SERVICE

Mumford and Sons not down with Tidal

Marcus Mumford and his band of Sons weren't invited to be part of Jay Z's big fancy Tidal streaming music party with Madonna and Rihanna — which they totally don't care about, OK?

"We wouldn't have joined it, anyway, even if they had asked. We don't want to be tribal," Mumford tells the Daily Beast. "What I'm not into is the tribalistic aspect of it — people trying to corner bits of the market and put their face on it. That's just commercial bulls—." So there, Jay Z. No neo-folk for you.

FREAK ACCIDENT

Tori recovering from Benihana burns

It's not nice to laugh at someone else's pain, sure, but honestly this story about Tori Spelling falling onto a hibachi at Benihana is so absurd I can't not include it. And seriously, have you been to a Benihana? I'm genuinely surprised we don't hear about this happening more often.

Anyway, Spelling was just finishing up a delightful family brunch at the Japanese chain restaurant — wait, Benihana does brunch? — when on the way out she caught her heel on something, tripped and fell "onto a scorching hot grill," a source tells TMZ.

"She shouted in pain from a large burn on the back of her right arm. You could tell she was hurting, but she was trying to put on a brave face for the sake of her four young children who were obviously quite worried."

Spelling initially tried to treat the burn herself, but ended up hospitalized at the Grossman Burn Center in West Hills, Calif., where she underwent a skin graft. Yikes.

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WORD OF MOUTH
Theresa Albert
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"Oh my darling, you have such a way with rotisserie chicken." Not as romantic as having a way with words but in this day and age, much more useful.

The new book, The Great Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook by Eric Akis, outlines how to cook a bird yourself. But if you are like most of us, you will want to make use of the variety of ways to use that lifesaver of a bird cooked by the grocer.

There are a few things to watch out for when picking one up:

- **Date and time prepared.** These babies can dry out on the shelf or be left too long at an unsafe temperature.
- **Size of chicken.** Don't be fooled by the cheaper grocer unless you also know the size. Since most chickens are sold this way, breeders are being asked to grow 'em smaller to compete.
- **Seasonings.** There is no way around how salty your roasted lifesaver can be so you will have to make sure the rest of the day is managed wisely. (Soy sauce at lunch, roasted chicken at dinner and popcorn for snack is going to have your blood pressure soaring. But steamed broccoli won't.)
- **Toss the bones and veggie scraps into a freezer bag when you are done picking it for all it is worth.** Because it is worth more when you simmer the bones for soup broth and two bird carcasses in the freezer are worth two more in the shopping cart.

THERESA IS AN ON-CAMERA FOOD AND HEALTH EXPERT, NUTRITIONIST AND WRITER WHO LOVES TO SPREAD THE WORD ON FOOD.

> **A lot of people still want to make some element of the meal. So whether they've made their own chicken or bought one, they still want to do that side dish to serve with it.**
> Eric Akis, The Great Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook

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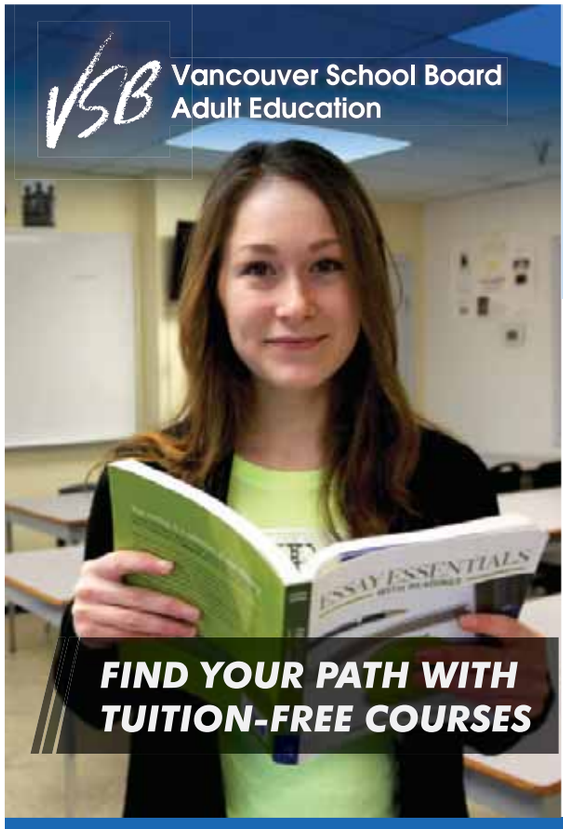

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Rotisserie chicken makes a great base for easy meals

DINNER

Poultry can be comfort food or diversified to global tastes

While developing recipes for using rotisserie chicken meat in a range of dishes, Eric Akis took into consideration the diverse palates of Canadians.

"They like international tastes, but they also like good old comfort food, so I've got anything from mac and cheese with chicken and peas, which would be great for a Tuesday supper, but then I've also done a Vietnamese-style chicken and rice noodle salad," he says.

He also includes a section in his eighth cookbook, The Great Rotisserie Chicken Cookbook, on side dishes to serve with rotisserie chicken.

Here is a recipe from the book using rotisserie chicken as an ingredient.

Chicken, avocado and tomato melts

This recipe is really simple. The sumptuous melts can be served with a simple green salad and a glass of lemonade or iced tea.

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 10 minutes

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Pour lime juice onto a wide plate.

2. Quarter avocado lengthwise, pull it apart, and discard pit. Remove peel from avocado. Cut each quarter piece of avocado lengthwise into 3 slices. Set avocado on plate and coat with lime juice.

3. Spread mayonnaise on one side of each slice of bread and arrange on baking sheet. Top each slice with arugula, 2 slices of tomato, 3 slices of avocado and 1/3 cup of the chicken. Sprinkle with cheese.

4. Bake for 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bottom of bread is lightly toasted. Garnish with cilantro and serve.

Makes 4 servings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp lime juice
- 1 medium ripe avocado
- 4 slices French bread, each 1 inch thick
- 4 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 cups baby arugula or spinach
- 8 slices ripe tomato
- 1 1/3 cups shredded rotisserie chicken meat
- 1 cup grated plain or jalapeno-flavoured Monterey Jack cheese
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro or green onions

Chicken, avocado and tomato melts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WINE

Chianti makes a comeback

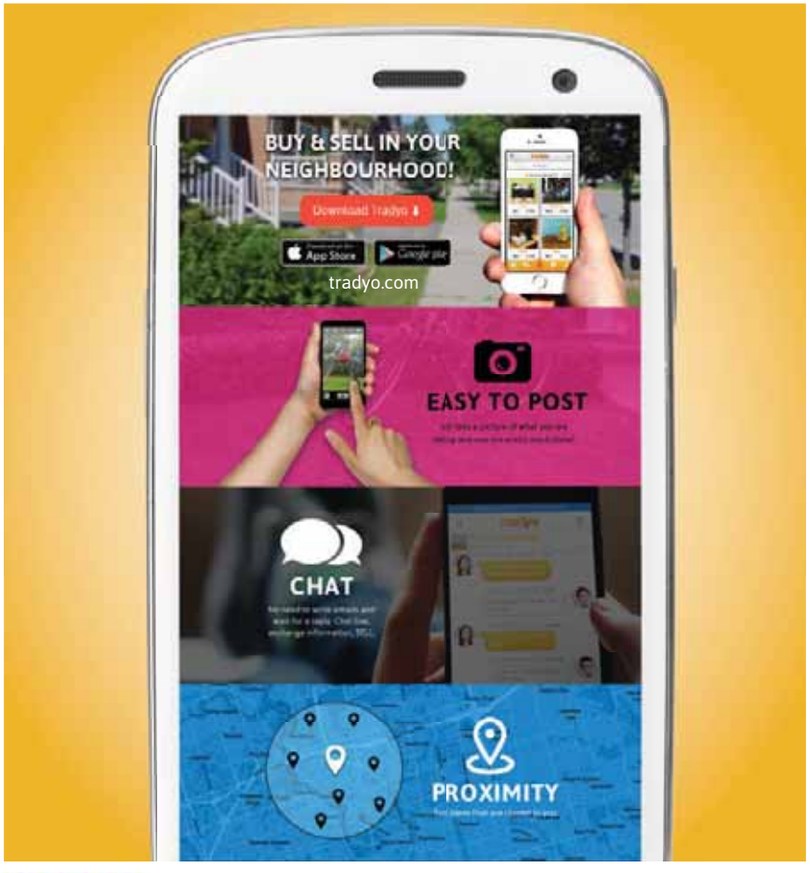
LIQUID ASSETS

Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy

Baby Boomers are fuelling a trend in retro wine packaging The return of classic designs is a welcome sip down memory lane, especially when it comes to the Italian fiasco.

Calling Chianti home, it's a round bottle kept upright by an elaborate straw basket that once emptied was often turned into a candle holder back in the day.

A variety of styles are available across the country, with the juicy 2013 Leonardo Chianti ($13-$19.99) making a perfect partner with spaghetti and meatballs or a slice of takeout pizza. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



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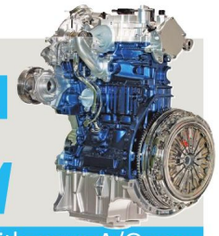

Study links excessive heat from internal-combustion engines with more A/C use.

Tech mixes with easygoing style

REVIEW

Acura IXL stays fresh via powertrain, infotainment

Jil McIntosh
For Metro

Acura created the ILX back in 2013 to get young upwardly mobile buyers into the Acura family. The intent was that they would stay with Acura, and buy bigger and more expensive ones as they moved up the food chain.

It hasn't happened as Acura would have liked, especially in the U.S., which has never embraced the concept of an entry-level and Civic-based Acura, as we have in Canada.

That's not to say Acura ILX isn't a decent ride. Sometimes we just have to overlook a vehicle's intended marketing mission and just take a keen look at the vehicle itself. And when you do that here, you find a really sweet, small sports sedan, especially when you consider all the new bits that have been bestowed on the vehicle for 2016, to mark its first major mid-cycle makeover.

The biggest new bits are the 2.4-litre I4 engine and eight-speed "dual clutch" automatic transmission, lifted from its immediate bigger sibling, the TLX. This gives the small Acura 201 horses, over 50 more than last year. The engine likes to rev and the transmission loves to shift, and does so expertly and quickly, so it's a great match. It doesn't have that effortless power feel, however, of torque-rich V6s and turbocharged fours.

But the ILX can go around a corner with panache. It turns easily and flatly, and instils a lot of confidence in the driver. That driver would have more fun if there were a bit more steering feel, but other than that, this is a fun ride.

Back seat room, and interior room generally, are not up to "mid-size" standards. If you need such space, the mid-size mainstream sedans beckon, which can be had for about the same price of this "compact" near-luxury sedan.

This being 2015, a vehicle needs more than just space and pace to succeed — it needs lots of acronyms in the safety department, and lots of connectivity in the dashboard. We don't have the space to go through the entire laundry list, but suffice to say Acura wants ILX to be a segment leader in this regard.

Some highlights, which are either standard or optionally available, include: long-range engine starter, GPS-linked automatic climate control, next-generation AcuraLink (cloud-based connected car system), Siri Eyes Free (standard across the board), rain-sensing wipers, and the AcuraWatch suite of driver assist technologies, which includes adaptive cruise, lane keeping assist, rear camera, and collision mitigation.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 ACURA ILX

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, FWD, entry-level luxury compact sedan
Engines (hp/torque). 2.4-litre turbocharged I4 (201)
Transmissions. Eight-speed DSG automatic
Price. Base/as-tested price (incl. destination). $31,619/$36,019

POINTS

- Entry-level Acura nameplate based on the Honda Civic platform.
- Major mid-cycle updates for model year 2016.
- 2.4-litre four and eight-speed automatic from TLX becomes sole powertrain option.

COOL FEATURES

- AcuraWatch suite of safety and driver-assist technologies is standard.
- Standard Bluetooth, text message, and Siri Eyes Free.
- Available iPhone navigation app connectivity, and AuraLink, for more smartphone-based functions.

MARKET POSITION

- Targeted at younger and upwardly mobile buyers.
- For buyers who prioritize premium cache, looks, and technology.
- Aims to please and differentiate with higher levels of safety and connectivity than its peers.

THE COMPETITION

Audi A3
Base price: $33,695

Mercedes-Benz CLA 250
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Buick Verano
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Chevrolet Cruz boasts space

USED VEHICLE

Odours, leaks, may plague 2011 to 2014 models

Replacing the Cobalt and competing with the Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra, Ford Focus and Toyota Corolla, the Chevrolet Cruze hit the Canadian market for model year 2011, riding a new European-based platform and hoping to attract customers with top-notch efficiency, leading warranty coverage and overall value. With plenty of selection, the big-for-its-class Cruze should make an ideal used sedan for a shopper after plenty of space and a pleasant all-around driving experience.

On board, smell for any unpleasant odours, such as a burnt sugar smell, which could indicate a coolant leak under the hood, or in the vehicle's heater core, as well as earthy or 'dirty-sock' odours — resulting from moisture buildup in the HVAC system causing mildew.

Blocked moisture drain tubes may be to blame for the latter issue, and your Chevrolet dealer may offer a mould/mildew cleaning kit to remedy the problem. If you detect any unpleasant smells, have a mechanic check the cooling system and HVAC system for leaks.

Check the Cruze's cooling system pressure cap for signs of coolant leakage, which will require a new, revised cap to remedy.

Visit the highway and get the Cruze up to speed, turning the steering wheel slightly to "weave" where appropriate.

A "notchy" or "sticky" feel to the steering system could indicate a problem that requires further investigation. Most owners reporting this issue find it occurs at low mileage and have it fixed under warranty.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Features

Look for OnStar, heated seats, a sunroof, automatic lights, and above-average at-hand storage facilities for keeping organized on the move. A full suite of advanced safety systems is on board, too.

Engines

Most copies of the Cruze in the used market will pack a 1.4-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine, or a 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine. Six-speed transmissions in either automatic or manual were available.

The verdict

Cruze isn't the obvious choice as the most reliable used compact sedan, though owners did love it for comfort and refinement. Opt for as new a model you can afford, seeking to maximize protection from the Cruze's warranty, where possible. A prepurchase inspection at a Chevrolet dealer should be considered mandatory.

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ELECTRIC CARS

Virgin to join e-car market

Demonstrating that the future is not just in the hands of big-name automakers, Richard Branson says his Virgin empire has "teams of people" working on electric cars. Virgin is already a supporter of the Formula E (for electric) racing championship.

"So you never know," Branson told Bloomberg News Service, "you may find Virgin competing ... in the car business, as we do in the space business."

Virgin heats up e-cars competition

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$51 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $12,995

AB10624

2013 FIAT 500C LOUNGE

Convertible, fun car to drive, great on gas, power group, A/C, keyless entry, black on black, heated leather seats.

$65 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $16,995

BR0048

2014 KIA OPTIMA EX

Automatic, 17" alloy wheels, fog lights, LED daytime running lights, automatic headlights.

$109 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $28,995

S14734A

2008 MITSUBISHI LANCER ES

A/C, tilt steering wheel, speed control, AM/FM/CD/MP3, steering wheel mounted audio controls.

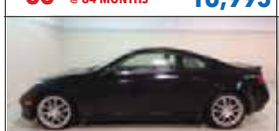
$62 WEEKLY @ 66 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $12,995

AB10654

2009 HYUNDAI TUCSON

Limited edition, 4x4, automatic, air conditioning, heated leather seats, sunroof, CD/AM/FM, roof rails.

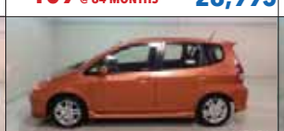
$68 WEEKLY @ 78 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $15,995


AB10655

2007 INFINITI G35 SPORT

Automatic, climate control, power group, sunroof, CD, AM/FM radio, leather seats, heated front seats.

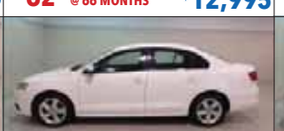
$98* WEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $17,998


S15454A

2007 HONDA FIT SPORT

Automatic, A/C, tilt steering wheel, speed control, AM/FM radio. CD player. front fog lights.

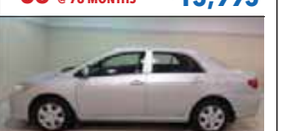
$46** WEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $7,995


AB10641

2012 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI

Comfortline, diesel 6 speed automatic, A/C, full power group, alloy wheels, CD, radio, amazing fuel economy.

$76 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $19,995


AB10656

2012 TOYOTA COROLLA LE

It comes with the automatic, power windows, power locks, A/C, keyless entry, CD, radio, cruise control.

$57 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $13,995

VK1013

2014 KIA FORTE 2.0L EX

FWD, automatic, 17" alloy wheels, rear view camera, air conditioning, AM/FM/CD/MP3, Bluetooth.

$86 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $21,995

4500A

2006 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L

Stow and go package It comes with convenience package, A/C, CD, AM/FM radio, automatic transmission, 7-seater.

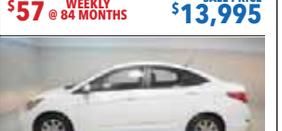
$60** WEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $9,995

AB10614

2014 DODGE CHARGER SXT

Only 19,589 km's, automatic, power group, heated leather seats, power sunroof, fog lights, leather interior.

$101 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $26,995


AB10638

2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT

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$53 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $12,995

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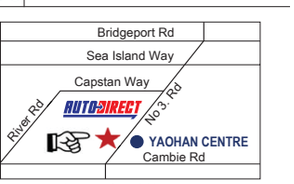

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SOLAR POWER

Glow-in-dark car rides

Nissan recently drove its first glow-in-the-dark electric Leaf sedan on the world's first luminous "smart" highway near Oss, Netherlands. The luminous Leaf was put on the solar-powered highway to announce Nissan EV sales increased by 313 per cent across the Netherlands last year and to showcase how many of its customers are powering their cars from solar energy.

MILEAGE

Leaf drivers recorded one billion kilometres driven worldwide

Automaker Nissan says that owners of its Leaf plug-in electric mid-size sedan have recorded one billion kilometres driven worldwide, saving more than 180 million kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions in the process. Over that vast distance, the Nissan Leaf has reportedly become the best-selling electric vehicle in history.

Shell team working on concept car

Automotive designer Gordon Murray is famous for creating the McLaren F1. SHELL

DESIGN

Collaboration to produce 'ultra' city car

One of the world's biggest oil and gas companies is collaborating with Gordon Murray — one of the world's most respected automotive designers — on a project exploring the future of personal mobility.

Dubbed Project M, the collaboration aims to design, develop and build an ultra-efficient, ultra-compact city car, albeit one that is powered by a traditional internal combustion engine.

Shell describes the car, which will be unveiled in concept form in November, as a simple global city car that will "work brilliantly whether you are in a city where mass-motoring is a relatively new thing or already a century old."

For Murray, the project is clearly a chance to further his own work into the topic. In 2010, he unveiled something called the T25, an ingenious ultra-compact city car that sat three in a triangular formation and which used a revolutionary manufacturing process that reduced weight and materials without compromising strength or rigidity.

The iStream system, as it was called, also allowed the basic three-seat platform to take on many different forms and shapes based on the motoring need, meaning that the creation of a whole range of different cars would be simple and affordable.

Although this is now officially a Shell project, it appears that it shares many elements with the T25.

Of the project, Murray himself says it's a chance to explore future personal mobility needs.

"I think the Shell car is really important," says Murray.

"We can look to the future and see where we should be going not just with materials but in terms of design philosophy and other technologies and take a holistic look at where the future car is going," he adds.

The project is a long way from Formula One and supercars, the areas of motoring where Murray has legendary status. During his three years working on the McLaren Formula One team, the company won the driver's world championship and the constructor's world championship three times in a row.

Afterwards Murray turned his attention to the road and designed the McLaren F1 – the pioneering 200 miles per hour-plus supercar which stood unchallenged until the creation of the Bugatti Veyron — and followed it up with the McLaren Mercedes SLR.

However, one element of the new project might feel familiar indeed to Murray. Osamu Goto, who designed the Honda Formula One engines that powered those McLaren cars to victory, is also involved in the project as the car's engine designer. AFP

AUTO NEWS HIGH BIDDING ON VANITY PLATES IN MIDDLE EAST

In Qatar, a personalized plate is a status symbol. ISTOCK

Qataris spend millions on personalized plates

Super-rich Qataris have splashed out millions on "fancy" car number plates in an online auction run by the interior ministry of the energy-rich state.

More than 4.2 million Qatari riyals ($1.1 million) had been pledged on just 24 separate and unique car registration numbers.

In Dubai, owning a distinct number plate has become a desirable status symbol for Qataris to publicly show off their wealth. Most in demand are those with fewer numbers — most ordinary Qatari registration plates have six figures — repeated digits, or those in sequence.

A previous auction for "fancy vehicle numbers" at the end of last year saw one driver bid a reported 200 million riyals (almost $55 million) for the number plate 333355. AFP

RICHMOND SUBARU SALE ON NOW!

S14828A

2014 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0I

148HP, AWD, multifunction display, cloth upholstery, media hub for iPod/USB audio integration, Bluetooth connectivity, auxiliary audio input, climate control.

$146 BIWEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $20,888

S15422B

2013 HONDA FIT SPORT

Tilt and telescoping steering wheel, Bluetooth HandsFree Link, split folding rear seats, MP3/AM/FM/CD, heated door mirrors, front fog lights.

$140 BIWEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $17,888

BB3976A

2014 SUBARU BRZ SPORT-TECH

200HP, TORSEN limited slip differential, bi-xenon HID headlights, fog lights, rear spoiler, 17" anthracite aluminum wheels, performance tuned suspension.

$191 BIWEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $26,888

BB3840

2013 BMW X6 XDRIVE35I

Cream colored interior, sunroof, leather and various storage throughout, leather steering wheel, DVD/AUX with 8" monitor for rear seats, Bluetooth, AWD.

$422 BIWEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $50,888

BB3962

2014 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5I

Touring package, AWD, 175HP, roof spoiler, multi-reflective halogen fog lights, roof rails with adjustable crossbars, power tilting and sliding glass sunroof, power rear gate.

$191 BIWEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $26,888

S15415A

2013 HONDA CIVIC EX

Automatic, 16" aluminum alloy rims, fully loaded, power locks, windows and rear view mirrors, power sunroof, leather steering wheel integrated with Bluetooth, stereo and cruise controls.

$174 BIWEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $21,888

BB3907

2014 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5I

Touring package, AWD, Bluetooth, steering wheel mounted with audio controls, A/C, AM/FM radio, heated front seats.

$161 BIWEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $22,888

S15363A

2013 TOYOTA MATRIX

Tilt and telescoping steering wheel, AM/FM/CD/MP3, steering wheel mounted audio controls, split folding rear seats, power and heated door mirrors, power steering.

$114 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $14,888

S15220A

2012 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0

TDI Trendline+, power adjustable rear view mirrors, power windows, heated and auto dimming rear view mirrors, Bluetooth compatible, dual zone climate control.

$223 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $23,888

S15135B

2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE LTZ

Turbo, beige leather interior, A/C, emergency communication system, Bluetooth, heated front seats, leather upholstery, perimeter/approach lights, sport suspension.

$133 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $14,888

BB3938B

2011 TOYOTA VENZA

V6, AWD, HomeLink, A/C, trunk/hatch auto-latch, front dual zone A/C, wireless phone connectivity, steering wheel mounted audio controls, split folding rear seats.

$233 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $24,888

BB3836A

2011 KIA SORENTO SX V6

7 seater, AWD, front dual zone A/C, HomeLink, power moonroof, navigation, wireless phone connectivity, split folding rear seat, leather upholstery, backup camera.

$193 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $16,888

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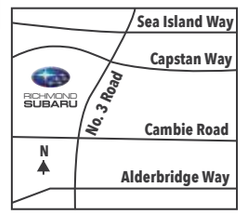

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Model shown: Civic Touring FB2F7FKNX

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MSRP $17,245** includes freight and PDI.

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- LaneWatch™ blind spot display
- Multi-angle rearview camera
- 7" Display Audio System with HondaLink™ Next Generation

2015 ACCORD LX

LEASE FOR $62* @ 0.99% APR# $0 down‡

Weekly on a 60 month term with 260 payments.
MSRP **$25,745**** includes freight and PDI. Model shown: CR2E3FE

Features available on select models include:

- LaneWatch™ blind spot display
- Lane Departure Warning and Forward Collision Warning
- Rearview camera (standard)

2015 FIT DX

LEASE FOR $40* @ 2.99% APR# $0 down‡

Weekly on a 60 month term with 260 payments.
MSRP **$16,070**** includes freight and PDI. Model shown: GK5G3FE

Standard features include:

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- Multi-angle rearview camera
- 60/40 Split 2nd Row Magic Seat®

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*Limited time weekly lease offer and all other offers are from Honda Canada Finance Inc., on approved credit. #The weekly lease offer applies to a new 2015 Accord LX model CR2E3FE/Civic DX model FB2E2FEX/Fit DX model GK5G3FE ("Specified Models") for a 60-month period, for a total of 260 payments of $61.93/$38.95/$39.97 leased at 0.99%/0.99%/2.99% APR based on applying $325.00/$1,100.00/$1,175.00 "lease dollars" (which are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes). ‡In order to achieve $0 down payment, dealer will cover the cost of tire/battery tax, air conditioning tax (where applicable), environmental fees and levies on the 2015 Accord LX, Civic DX and Fit DX only on customer's behalf. Down payment of $0.00, first weekly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $16,101.80/$10,127.00/$10,392.20. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. **MSRP is $25,745/$17,245/$16,070 including freight and PDI of $1,695/$1,495/$1,495 based on new 2015 Specified Models described above. License, insurance, registration and taxes are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. */#/**Prices and/or payments shown do not include a PPSA lien registration fee of $30.31 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.25, which are both due at time of delivery and covered by the dealer on behalf of the customer on Specified Models only. Offers valid from April 1st through 30th 2015 at participating Honda retailers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid only for British Columbia residents at BC Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.bchonda.com or see your Honda retailer for full details.

metro SPORTS

Patrick Kane to make his return from a broken collarbone Wednesday night

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Nucks, Flames reignite rivalry

NHL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Pacific Division series between unlikely foes

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

At the beginning of the National Hockey League season, a playoff series between the Canucks and Flames seemed as unlikely as Calgary without its Stampede, or Vancouver without yoga.

The pundits had the Canucks scrapping for a playoff spot, maybe getting in or maybe not, and the Flames a rebuilding lot at the bottom of the standings. These two Pacific Division foes will renew a storied rivalry that lay in a state of irrelevant dormancy as one, if not both teams muddled in mediocrity.

> **“I can’t wait. It’s going to be a different monster playing in Canada in the playoffs.**
> Shawn Matthias

The Flames and the Canucks will renew their rivalry when the puck drops on their first-round playoff series Wednesday. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Even during this regular season, neither team had great advanced statistics. The Flames, whose calling card became third-period comeback wins, were near the bottom of the league in 5-on-5 Corsi For, and the Canucks were at 49.5 per cent in that category.

It’s likely that for both teams, the numbers will catch up to them. But for now, the Canucks and Flames meet in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series on Wednesday at Rogers Arena.

They’ve staged epic post-season battles in the past, with their last three series needing a Game 7 overtime winner to decide things.

“It’s going to be amazing. It’s going to be two rocking barns,” said forward Shawn Matthias, who finished the season with a career-high 18 goals and 27 points.

“I can’t wait. It’s going to be a different monster playing in Canada in the playoffs.”

It has been 11 years since the last time these two teams met in the playoffs.

Daniel and Henrik Sedin were in their fourth NHL seasons. Flames sophomore centre Sean Monahan was five months shy of his 10th birthday.

The rivalry filters through to the fan bases, too. There is never a shortage of trash talking between the hockey markets and it doesn’t seem to matter where either team sits in the standings.

“It’s going to be a fun building to play in. It always is,” said Canucks captain Henrik Sedin.

“They’re going to come hard and it’s going to be a fun series, especially when there’s two teams that I don’t think anyone thought we were going to be in the playoffs.”

Canucks bring wealth of post-season experience

So, Derek Dorsett, you’ve been to a Stanley Cup Final, as have several of your teammates that were here with the 2011 edition of the Vancouver Canucks. How important is playoff experience?

“That must be the hot topic in the coffee room this morning,” replied Dorsett, a smile on his face.

Oh, you’ve been asked about this before?

“I think every single guy has asked me about it,” he said, two days before the Canucks and Calgary Flames drop the puck for Game 1 of their first-round series on Wednesday at Rogers Arena.

The Canucks enter this series with a roster that includes nine players from the 2011 team.

Dorsett played in the championship series with the New York Rangers last year.

Brad Richardson was part of the 2012 L.A. Kings that demolished everything in their path en route to a championship.

195

The number of playoff games the Sedins have under their belts

Radim Vrbata went to the conference championships that same year with the Phoenix Coyotes.

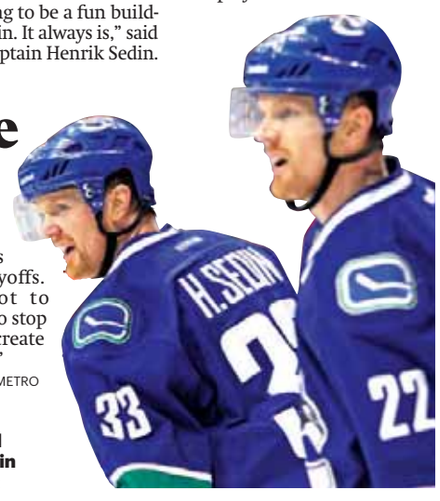
Ryan Miller has played in conference championships and a gold-medal Olympic hockey match.

Between every player on their roster, the Canucks have 802 games of playoff experience. The Flames have 266, not including injured defenceman Mark Giordano, and the majority of that is tied to four players.

“Experience helps but at the same time, it’s a new series, it’s a new game,” said Dorsett.

“There’s a lot of momentum swings in the playoffs. You’ve got to find ways to stop them and create them, too.”

CAM TUCKER/METRO



Henrik and Daniel Sedin
GETTY IMAGES

Better not blink in first round

Johnny Gaudreau's and Jiri Hudler's speed will prove problematic for the Canucks. CHRISTIAN PETERSON/GETTY IMAGES

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Matt Larkin

Playoff hockey is back in British Columbia and Alberta. And first-round matchups don't get much more exciting than Vancouver's upcoming Pacific Division tilt with the Calgary Flames. Fittingly, the teams split their regular-season tilts. Vancouver won 4-2 on Oct. 8 and 3-2 in overtime on Dec. 20. Calgary won 1-0 Jan. 10 and 3-2 on Feb. 14.

Peruse media predictions in newspapers or social media and you'll find an even split between Canucks and Flames backers. It's warranted. This series looks wafer-thin. And I have it going seven hard-fought games, calling to mind the epic wars of 1994 and 2004.

I see a few clear advantages in each team's favour. The Canucks have the obvious veteran experience edge. Henrik Sedin, Daniel Sedin, Alexander Edler, Alexandre Burrows, Kevin Bieksa, Jannik Hansen, Chris Higgins and Dan Hamhuis remain from the 2011 team that reached Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final. Chris Tanev played five games that spring, too. The Flames, on the other hand, have a number of key cogs playing their first playoff hockey ever, from Johnny Gaudreau to Sean Monahan to Mikael Backlund to T.J. Brodie. Jiri Hudler and Brandon Bollig have Stanley Cup rings, but neither was a massive part of his team's run at the time.

The Canucks are also the bigger, brawnier team. The Flames' top forwards include pint-sized Gaudreau and Hudler. Vancouver's blue-line can counter with heavy-hitting Bieksa, and a rangy top pairing in Alexander Edler and Chris Tanev. On the flip side, Vancouver's forward corps brings a lot more blunt force. The Likes of Derek Dorsett and Bo Horvat might overwhelm Calgary's smallish defence corps, led by Kris Russell, Dennis Wideman and T.J. Brodie.

But Calgary has a few crucial advantages that may tip the scales in its favor. It brings a lot of speed to the table, not just from its top six forwards, but from its blue-line, as coach Bob Hartley loves letting his defenceman join the rush. The Flames look steadier in net right now, too. Jonas Hiller caught fire in March and April and carries nice momentum into the playoffs. The Canucks have Ryan Miller ... or is it Eddie Lack? That's the problem. Miller returned from his knee injury just in time to show rust and put the goaltending decision in question. A starter still hadn't been named at press time. Does Desjardins go with still-creaky Miller or an inexperienced Lack?

The coaching edge goes to Calgary, too. Desjardins has done a great job this year, but Hartley has too, and he's a Stanley Cup winner. If and when this series gets into deep water, I expect Hartley's battle-tested Cardiac Kids to edge the Canucks. Flames in 7.

SERIES PREVIEW

REGULAR SEASON: Canucks went 48-29-5 (101 points) to finish second in Pacific. Flames went 45-30-7 (97 points) to finish third in Pacific.
SEASON SERIES: Canucks won 2-1-1, with two wins in regulation.
STORY LINE: The Canucks return to the playoffs despite a knee injury in late February to goalie Ryan Miller. The Flames, who are back for the first time in six years, are seeking their first post-season series victory since 2004. The Flames had the fewest points of the 16 playoff teams.
AP PREDICTION: Flames in 7.
GAME 1: Wednesday at Vancouver, 7 p.m.

VS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Canucks' Bo Horvat averaged 12:15 of ice time per game during the regular season. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Bo knows pressure

NHL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Horvat would welcome test of facing Monahan

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Two graduates from the 2013 NHL draft class will be prominently featured when the Vancouver Canucks and Calgary Flames begin their first-round playoff series Wednesday.

Flames upstart sophomore Sean Monahan was taken sixth overall and just wrapped up a 31-goal season. Canucks rookie Bo Horvat, who steadily improved as the season progressed, was taken three picks later.

A pair of Ontario Hockey League products, it's possible the two 20-year-old centres could get matched up against each other.

It's a challenge Horvat would look forward to, facing Monahan and the red-hot line that includes rookie Johnny Gaudreau and veteran Jiri Hudler, should head coach Willie Desjardins place that responsibility on him.

Monahan broke onto the scene in Calgary last season and was a bright spot on a team nowhere close to qualifying for the playoffs, while Horvat was sent back to junior.

"It's not a matchup that I would worry about," said Vancouver's coach Willie Desjardins.

Not only did the Canucks keep Horvat, he's taken on an increasingly larger role the deeper he's got into his first year.

He averaged 42 seconds of penalty kill time per game, as well as 12:15 of ice time per game, as the coaching staff consistently rolled four lines.

Horvat has played on big hockey stages before. He's represented Canada in the world juniors, and played in three Memorial Cup tournaments with the London Knights.

He believes those experiences have helped prepare him for the pressure of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"There's definitely a little bit of nerves, but more excitement than anything," said Horvat.

NHL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Canucks focus on discipline versus Flames

Even in practice, the Vancouver Canucks have been guilty of having too many players on the ice.

It happened Monday, as the local NHL team worked on a full-ice 5-on-5 drill with someone down at ice level involved in the skate yelling out "Too many men! Too many men!" At the end of the regular season, the Canucks led the league with 16 bench minors and 15 of those were for having too many players on the ice.

And those are the infractions that may eventually come back to bite the Canucks in the playoffs, even though they finished with the second best penalty kill in the league during the regular season at 85.7 per cent.

"There are certain penalties that are a little tougher to kill off than others," said forward Chris Higgins, referencing the too-many-players penalties.

The Calgary Flames enter the series with the league's 13th-best power play at 18.8 per cent.

85.7%

The Canucks' rate of successfully killing penalties was second best in the NHL

Despite being one of the most penalized teams, the Canucks have managed to get by with a stellar penalty kill, which didn't give up a goal in the final five regular-season games.

"We read each other well. We're aggressive when we have to be, we block shots and we have good goalies," said Higgins. "You do those things, more often than not, you're going to kill the penalty."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

6 RED FLAGS INTERVIEWERS LOOK OUT FOR.

INCRIMINATING PHOTOS
You will be Googled. And even if you have strict privacy settings, it's still possible for someone inside your network to copy and share photos. Post wisely.

BAD ATTITUDE
No one likes a Negative Nancy. Avoid rolling your eyes or complaining about former bosses. Employers want to hire upbeat, positive team players.

SMOKING
Don't smoke a cigarette right before your interview. Many people have a strong aversion to the smell of smoke and your interviewer could be one of them.

TYPOS
Proofread your resume and cover letter over and over again. Misused words and spelling mistakes make you appear unskilled or, even worse, indifferent.

HIGH FASHION
Unless you're interviewing to be Gaga's next assistant, leave the experimental fashion at home. Simply aim for looking well groomed and professional.

DESPERATION
While it's good to be enthusiastic about the role, you don't want to appear desperate. If you don't feel confident about yourself, why should an employer?

THOUGHTS? TWEET US @WORKOPOLIS

WORKOPOLIS
Let's get to work

MLB RAYS HURT JAYS AT HOME AGAIN Toronto Blue Jays second baseman Devon Travis, left, forces out Tampa Bay Rays Evan Longoria, right, at second base but can not turn over the double play during sixth inning in Toronto on Tuesday. The Rays went on to win 3-2 thanks in part to a homer from Steve Souza Jr. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last-gasp Crowder bags Celtics 7th seed

NBA

Cavs now await as Raptors lose in last second prior to playoffs

The Boston Celtics knew they were in the playoffs. Now they can start thinking about a matchup with LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Jae Crowder hit an off-balance fall-away shot from deep on the right wing with .8 seconds left, lifting Boston to a 95-93 win over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday that secured the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference for the Celtics. Evan Turner and Avery Bradley each scored 14 points for Boston, which will face No. 2 seed Cleveland in the playoffs. Brandon Bass added 13 points and nine rebounds.

TUESDAY In Boston

95	93
CELTICS	RAPTORS

"Hey, to have a chance to compete against the very best in the league is a great opportunity," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "It's a big mountain, but it is a great opportunity."

It was the fifth straight win for the Celtics, who clinched a playoff spot on Monday when Brooklyn lost. "It's exactly what we wanted, no matter who it is — whether the Atlanta Hawks or Cleveland," Crowder said.

Kyle Lowry had 16 points for the Raptors, who are locked into the fourth seed and will face Washington. Toronto beat the Wizards in all three meetings this season.

"The way we lost tonight, we're disappointed," coach Dwane Casey said. "But it doesn't (spoil) the season."

Boston collected 17 offensive rebounds and owned a 50-43 edge on the glass.

The teams were tied six times in the final quarter before Turner hustled after his own miss and found Tyler Zeller for a one-hander in the lane with 14 seconds left. Just like a few seconds earlier, Lowry then drove the lane, tying it at 93 with 10.2 seconds to go.

Turner hit a jumper from the right baseline off an inbounds play with 35.2 seconds left to push Boston ahead 91-89, but Lowry scored on a drive down the lane, tying it.

Boston led 73-70 entering the final period. The Raptors led by seven after one, pushed it to 15 late into the second quarter and held a 53-46 advantage at intermission.

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SOCCER

Dubious penalty gives Juventus edge

A controversial penalty handed Juventus a narrow 1-0 win over Monaco in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal on Tuesday, leaving everything to play for in next week's return match in the principality.

Arturo Vidal scored his first goal of this season's competition in the 57th minute of an entertaining match after Ricardo Carvalho was judged to have fouled Alvaro Morata in the box.

"It's a great injustice, the penalty was non-existent and I hope that doesn't have an influence on the final result of this tie," Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim said. Monaco had been denied a penalty of its own in the first half when Anthony Martial tangled with Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini.

Elsewhere, goalkeeper Jan Oblak made a series of outstanding saves to help Atletico Madrid hold an attacking Real Madrid to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal. In a repeat of last season's final, cup holder Madrid could have opened the scoring after a free kick in the second minute but Oblak stopped Dani Carvajal's shot.

Two minutes later, Oblak blocked Gareth Bale's effort after Atletico defender Diego Godin failed to clear and he followed up by saving Cristiano Ronaldo's free kick shortly afterward.

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Juve's match winner Arturo Vidal controls the ball. AP PHOTO

IN BRIEF

Steelers' Taylor retires
Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Ike Taylor is retiring, ending a 12-year career in which he helped lead the team to two Super Bowl victories. The 34-year-old player announced the decision Tuesday. Taylor became a free agent last month and says he couldn't envision playing for another team. He finishes his career with 17 interceptions, including three in the playoffs. Safety Troy Polamalu also retired last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jurors fail to reach verdict again in Hernandez trial
After six days of deliberating, jurors went home Tuesday without reaching a verdict in the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez, who is accused of killing the man dating his fiancée's sister. Hernandez has pleaded not guilty in the killing of Odin Lloyd in June 2013. Testimony in the case lasted nine weeks, and deliberations have stretched on for 34 hours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Welcome spring with Sweet 'n' Sour Chicken Meatballs with Rice

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
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Ready in 50 minutes
Serves six

Directions

1. In a bowl, combine the chicken, onion, ketchup, bread crumbs, egg, salt and pepper and mix well. With wet hands, form the meatballs, using about 1 Tbsp of the mixture for each. Place on a plate and set aside.

2. In large saucepan, heat the vegetable oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and onion and cook just until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the bell peppers and cook for another 4 minutes. Add the tomato and pineapple juices, chili sauce, brown sugar, cornstarch and meatballs. Cover, reduce the heat and simmer for 25 minutes, or until the meatballs are cooked through.

3. Meanwhile, bring the rice and water to a boil, then cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and let stand for 10 minutes, covered.

4. Serve the meatballs and sauce over the rice. Garnish with pineapple and parsley.

Ingredients

- 12 oz ground chicken
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 Tbsp ketchup
- 5 Tbsp seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup diced green bell pepper
- 1 1/2 cups tomato juice
- 2 cups pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup sweet chili sauce (Heinz)
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 1 cup white rice
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup diced pineapple (fresh or canned)
- 3 Tbsp chopped parsley

Nutrition per serving

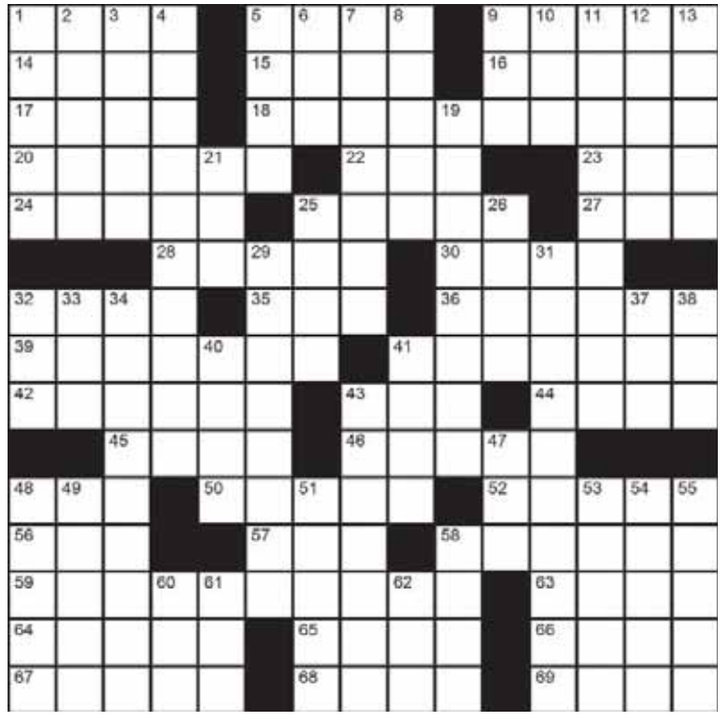
- Calories 377 • Protein 15 grams
- Carbohydrates 61 g • Fibre 3 g
- Total fat 7.7 g • Saturated fat 1.9 g
- Cholesterol 73 mg • Sodium 429 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE metronews.ca



ACROSS

1. Deodorant's pal
5. Compass/ruler set, briefly
9. Oversight
14. Currency in Oman
15. 161 in ancient Rome
16. Acrylic material
17. Bear constellation
18. Position for recently retired Canadian basketball star Steve Nash: 2 wds.
20. Bungled, with Up
22. Homer Simpson's sound!
23. Corp. leader
24. Literary genre
25. City of Switzerland
27. Be off
28. Jittery, __ __ ease
30. Cut, as wood
32. Jeanne _'__
35. Shana __, The Sweetest Dark author
36. Menswear accessory, variantly: 2 wds.
39. Get to the point
41. "Toy Soldiers" singer who also has a self-titled 'Kitchen' tune
42. Hedy of Hollywood
43. Daze
44. Door fastener
45. Acreage
46. Quaintly bless with oil
48. Greek alphabet's 21st letter
50. Quick bite
52. Map detail
56. Literary contraction
57. Chop from the team
58. Marilyn Monroe's hair hue
59. Scotiabank __ (Calgary entertainment/sports venue)
63. T. __ Price (Investment firm)
64. Mr. Reznor of rock
65. Press
66. Pare
67. Famous violin, commonly
68. Courtroom cry!
69. She-chickens

DOWN

1. Donald of "The Celebrity Apprentice"
2. Broadcaster
3. Cowboy's rope
4. Ontario: Chatham-Kent, the '__ __ Capital of Canada'
5. Crime-fighting force in Batman's domain [acronym]
6. "Turn to Stone" gr.
7. Get rusty
8. Ancient king of Crete
9. Account
10. Indonesia's __ Islands
11. Newfoundland town on the Avalon Peninsula
12. More painful
13. Ewoks' forest moon home
19. Some performers feel most at home on it: 2 wds.
21. Conger or Moray
25. Jennifer's "Dirty Dancing" (1987) role
26. Animal den
29. Paul __, Canadian host of HGTV's "Disaster Decks"
31. Toronto Raptors slogan: 3 wds.
32. Computer connection, e.g.
33. Paraguay/Brazil border river
34. It's what's left
37. "That '70s Show" star ...his initials-sharers
38. Pen's cover
40. Cholers
41. Monastery man
43. Industrious building
47. Rapper, __ Wayne
48. Nuisances
49. Life pumper
51. TV feed's sound
53. Nap noisily
54. __ Hawkins Singers hit: "Oh Happy Day"
55. Abounds
58. Mercedes-__
60. Crime lab stuff
61. Company name abbr.
62. Curly's pal

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
It seems you can't put a foot wrong at the moment but you know from long experience not to take things like that for granted. Enjoy life but watch where you tread.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You have been worrying too much about money lately but as of today your fears should subside a little. The moment you stop worrying about your cash flow is the moment it will start getting better.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Venus in your sign makes this a good time for affairs of the heart and anything of an artistic or creative nature, but Saturn is also strong at the moment, which means you must not lose your grip on reality.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This could be a special time for you. Like all Cancerians you want to do things for other people, to make the world a better place, and your chance to do so will arrive very soon.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Listen carefully to what friends and colleagues tell you today — and, if what they tell you makes sense, act on it immediately. And don't be so suspicious.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Career matters are under favourable stars at the moment, so be positive. Attitude is everything: if colleagues and employers sense that you are serious about your aims then they will be serious about them as well.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A task you were not looking forward to won't be as bad as you thought it would be – in fact, once you get going it may be enjoyable. That's good, because the more you smile the happier those around you will be as well.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Money isn't everything but it's still important and what happens today will remind you that you cannot afford to be too relaxed about what you own and earn. You have mouths to feed and bills to pay.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stop worrying about whether or not you are doing the right thing and live the way you feel is right.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't push yourself too hard or take on any new responsibilities over the next 24 hours — and don't let other people talk you into doing things.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Venus in your fellow Air sign of Gemini will do wonders for your confidence over the next few days but with Saturn strong at the moment as well you there will still be challenges.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you need to say sorry for something you did earlier in the month then say it now. Venus in the domestic area of your chart means others will happily forgive and forget.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		2	7	8				
	8					1	9	
3							4	
1					8			
9				7				4
			1					6
	6							3
	3	5					2	
				9	3	7		

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